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COMOR-M-25

COMMITTEE ON OVERHEAD RECONNAISSANCE

Minutes of Meeting Held in Room 429
Matomic Building, Central Intelligence Agency
at 9:30 am, 5 May 1961

PRESIDING

Chairman

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. H. M. Wiedemann, State	Cdr. H. D. Myles, ONI
Mr. J. J. Larkin, OSD	Lt. Col. W. L. Hall, AFCIN
Lt. Col. W. C. Herrington, JCS	NSA
Col. D. D. Davis, OACSI	CIA

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CONSULTANTS PRESENT

Lt. Col. J. W. Morris, OACSI
Lt. Cdr. R. E. Pyle, ONI
Maj. G. S. Chapman, AFCIN
Maj. S. J. Moran, AFCIN

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Mr. A. J. Steele, CIA
Mr. F. A. Voigt, CIA

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* Part of the meeting

Approval of Minutes

1. COMOR-M-19, 20, 21, 22, and 23 (11 April, 21 April, 24 April, 27 April, and 28 April, respectively) were approved subject to the following amendments:

a. COMOR-M-21, paragraph 2e, should be revised by adding the sentence "In future cases the same will apply."

It was requested that the agreement reached on the Parameters of the TALENT-KEYHOLE certification in paragraph 3, etc., be issued as a COMOR document for convenience of reference. The Chairman indicated he would do so.

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b. COMOR-M-22, paragraph 5. The Air Force requested that this paragraph should be amended by adding:

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The JCS also strongly urged downgrading of Cuban photography past and future to SECRET NOFORN. "

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Consideration of Future Cuban Coverage

2. Commander Myles reported that ONI had given careful attention with CINCLANT to the recent Cuban coverage, both in Norfolk and Washington. He reported that CINCLANT requirements for the future would be the same as for the recent mission. However, CINCLANT had revised his request for weekly coverage and was now making it monthly, the next to be about June 1.

3. It was agreed that unless JCS or ONI raised the question earlier, the matter would be brought to the COMOR agenda within three weeks to consider timing and requirements for a recommendation for further Cuban coverage. Also at that time consideration will be given to where processing should be accomplished.

4. Commander Myles stated that CINCLANT was most appreciative of the improved communication service in connection with the last mission on Cuba.

Complaints Regarding Reproduction of Satellite Photography (COMOR-D-36,
25 April 1961)

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5. NPIC reported that it had no complaints. It recognized that about 25 per cent of the film was of inferior quality because of the obliquity and atmospheric, but that to improve upon this would require a stop and repeat type of processing which NPIC believed was not worthwhile.

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6. The Air Force indicated that they are currently unaware of any complaints. There had been some in the past, but these had been successfully handled with [redacted]. The Chairman indicated that he would check with [redacted] who was currently out of the city, to see whether there was anything further he wished on this matter.

Highest Priority Requirements for Satellite Reconnaissance
1 May 1961)

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7. The Committee approved the reference paper submitted by [redacted] on behalf of the working group composed of representatives of the agencies. He noted that this now completes the highest priority requirements on the SovBloc.

8. The Air Force distributed a memorandum (CIN-1B2(S)1067-61, 14 April 1961) explaining why delay was necessary in submitting additional requirements for machine processing until July. The Air Force suggested that the members resume the submission of additions to priority requirements at that time. It was noted, however, that an updating of the machine run would be issued shortly.

Requirements for Photo Coverage of Southeast Asia

9. Colonel Herrington reported that a special high-level policy group had postponed consideration of the recommendation of COMOR for coverage in South China in connection with the Laotian crisis until next Thursday. Meanwhile the Chairman reported that he had received word from the Agency Staff Officer who serves the DCI in this connection that a proposal was to be prepared in the form normally used for overflight submissions to require a statement of justification--in essence the requirements. Accordingly, he tabled a draft paper for consideration which would possibly serve this need.

10. The draft was discussed and revised as [redacted] 5 May 1961. The Chairman requested that this paper which was distributed this afternoon be examined carefully, looking toward a meeting to finalize the paper on Monday morning, 8 May 1961.

11. Subsequent to the foregoing discussion, the Committee again examined the State Department view that the COMOR should not issue recommendations for coverage, inasmuch as it was not in a position to be familiar

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[REDACTED]

with all of the political factors involved. This discussion was inconclusive and will be the subject of further examination in the future.

Review of Communication Incident to Preliminary Reporting (TH-1015-61, 4 May 1961)

12. The Chairman stated that he had discussed the Air Force proposal at some length with the CIA Commo people and was prepared to meet with representatives of the agencies next week. (The Chairman will call the representatives on Monday to inform them when the meeting will be held.)

[REDACTED]

JAMES Q. REBER

Chairman

Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance

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22--Intel Staff/DPD

23--SO/DPD

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